Research Award: Communications Division
Deadline: 12 September 2012
Please note that all applications must be sent electronically.

IDRC offers Research Awards annually to Canadians, permanent residents of Canada, and citizens of developing countries pursuing master's or doctoral studies at a recognized university or having completed a master's or doctoral program at a recognized university.

IDRC's Research Awards provide a unique opportunity to enhance research skills and gain a fresh perspective on crucial development issues. This one-year, paid, in-house program of training and mentorship in research and corporate and research communications allows the awardees to pursue their research goals in a dynamic team environment with one of the world's leaders in generating new knowledge to meet global challenges.

The Communications Division at the International Development Research Centre works actively with IDRC's program areas and regional offices to help turn research results into action. IDRC's Communications Division has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote research results to key stakeholders. These initiatives include a very active book publishing program, media, web and social media strategies, as well as other outreach programs.

As a Communications Research Award recipient, you will undertake a one-year program of research on the topic you submitted when competing for the award. Your proposals should address one or more aspects of successful research communications. Examples include:

- How can the outcomes and impacts of communication initiatives be measured (branding, website, media campaigns, social media, research communication to influence policy and practice)?
- What strategies, tools, and techniques are most effective in reaching various stakeholders in Canada and developing world countries?
- What strategies, tools, and techniques do researchers use to communicate their findings to policymakers in developing countries? When (and why) do they work? How can new social media channels be used more effectively to promote research results, especially to stakeholders in developing regions around the globe with limited access to these outlets?
- How are new technologies changing the face of publishing and how can development agencies benefit?
- How can training programs, coaching, and mentoring effectively boost researchers' communication skills?

The Research Awardee is expected to report on his or her research plan and progress during the year during team meetings at IDRC, its regional offices, or other academic or professional forums. You are expected to finalize your research paper in the form of an internal or external publication with single or joint authorship.
In addition to his/her research work, the successful candidate will also contribute to a variety of other communications tasks as part of the team.

Who can apply

The program is aimed at candidates who, through demonstrated achievements in academic studies, work, or research, have shown interest in creating and using knowledge to improve communications initiatives.

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a developing country.
- Be either currently enrolled at a recognized university at the masters or doctoral level or have completed a masters or doctoral degree at a recognized university. These awards may be part of an academic requirement.
- Your proposed research must focus on Canada or one or more developing countries.

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Be enrolled in or hold a masters in communications, public policy, publishing, journalism, development studies, or other related field;
- Experience researching/working in a developing country or a strong demonstrated interest in development and development issues;
- Familiarity with practices used in communications and research communications;
- Strong verbal and written communications skills.

     This position is located in Ottawa at IDRC's head office.